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PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PART-B ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL AND COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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Serial No. 10/712,492

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael Stuart Weaver
Appln. No.: 10/712,492
Filed: November 13, 2003
Title: METHODS AND STRUCTURES FOR REDUCING LATERAL
DIFFUSION THROUGH COOPERATIVE BARRIER LAYERS
Art Unit: 2813
Examiner: Laura M. Schillinger
Confirm. No.: 8333
Docket No.: UDC-20201 CON

Via Facsimile 571-273-2885
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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance which were set forth in connection with the Notice of Allowance mailed October 31, 2006. These comments are being filed simultaneously with the payment of the government issue fee.

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance indicates that the prior art fails to show that the high density layer in conjunction with the substrate *completely* surrounds the high density layer as depicted in Fig. 6 and 7 of Applicant's drawings. Claim 44 is therefore allowable, the remaining dependent claims act only to further narrow the allowable subject matter and therefore are also deemed to be allowable over prior art.



Application SN
10/712,492

The undersigned notes a typographical error in the above reasons for allowance in that the high density layer in conjunction with the substrate completely surrounds the *planarizing* layer as depicted in Fig. 6 and 7 of Applicant's drawings.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at (703) 433-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. B. Bonham".

David B. Bonham
Registration No. 34,297

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